



What Are They Using?

Texting:



THE QUIET KING. I CAN'T DECIDE WHETHER TEXTING'S DOMINANCE HERE IS OBVIOUS OR PROFOUND. BY DAILY USE, IT'S NEARLY THREE-TIMES MORE POPULAR THAN PHONE CALLS.

Facebook:



"WHILE STILL HOLDING THE TOP SOME STATISTICS SUGGEST THAT "FACEBOOK IS ON IT'S WAY OUT." IN RECENT ARTICLES FROM TEENS THEY SUGGEST IT'S THE PLACE YOU GO TO STAY CONNECTED TO GROUPS AT SCHOOL AND CHURCH. THIS IS NO LONGER THE PLACE"

What Is It? "Facebook is a popular free social networking website that allows registered users to create profiles, upload photos and video, send messages and keep in touch with friends, family and colleagues."

Quick Thought: "More teenagers have a Facebook page than a driver's license. It's important to remember that your kids don't use Facebook the way you do. They will share, like and comment on things you may never dream of. It's important to friend your teen on Facebook but don't engage. Just let them know you are keeping an eye on what they are doing."

Instagram:



“EVERYTHING ABOUT THE APPLICATION MAKES IT LESS COMMERCIALIZED AND MORE FOCUSED ON THE CONTENT, MEANING MORE TEENS ARE INCLINED TO VISIT IT. WHEN THEY DO VISIT THE APPLICATION IT IS A MUCH MORE PLEASANT EXPERIENCE SO THEY ARE MORE INCLINED TO LIKE AND INTERACT WITH THE POSTS MORE.”

What Is It: "Instagram is a free online program and social network that enables users to take, edit and share photos with other users via Instagram's own platform, email, and social media sites including Twitter, Facebook, Tumblr, Foursquare and Flickr."

Quick Thought: “This is one of the most popular apps for teens mainly because it’s easy to share selfies and pictures of their food. It’s against Instagram’s terms of service to post “nude, partially nude, or sexually suggestive photos” but that doesn’t stop people. Instagram only has 15 full-time employees and there are five million photos uploaded every day so it’s important to educate your teen about what #’s to avoid and set up privacy settings.”

Twitter:



“THERE ARE THEN THREE MAIN GROUPS OF TWITTER USERS: THE ONES WHO USE IT TO COMPLAIN/EXPRESS THEMSELVES, THE ONES WHO TWEET WITH THE ASSUMPTION THAT THEIR PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYER WILL EVENTUALLY SEE WHATEVER THEY ARE SAYING, AND THE ONES WHO SIMPLY LOOK AT OTHER TWEETS AND DO THE OCCASIONAL RT.

What Is It? “Twitter is a free social networking microblogging service that allows registered members to broadcast short posts called tweets. Twitter members can broadcast tweets and follow other users' tweets by using multiple platforms and devices. Tweets and replies to tweets can be sent by cell phone text message, desktop client or by posting at the Twitter.com website.”

“Quick Thought” : “Allows teens to send quick and easy messages of 140 characters or less. They can follow whoever they want and they also can block whoever they want. Parents don’t have to follow their teens to know what they are posting but it’s a good idea to still follow them. Pictures are also posted on Twitter which leads to the same challenges of Instagram.”

YouTube:



“YOUTUBE IS A WEBSITE THAT HAS TRULY CHANGED THE WORLD. FOR AN AVID INTERNET USER IT’S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO IGNORE YOUTUBE.

What Is It? “YouTube is a free video-hosting website that allows members to store and serve video content.”

Quick Thought: YouTube has overtaken Facebook as the favorite social media platform for teens ages 12-15. While YouTube forbids sexually explicit content there is still content you don’t want your teen to see. For more info check out their Safety Center.

SnapChat:



“ON NO OTHER SOCIAL NETWORK (BESIDES TWITTER POSSIBLY) IS IT ACCEPTABLE POST AN “I’M SOOOO BORED” PHOTO BESIDES SNAPCHAT. THERE AREN’T LIKES YOU HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT OR COMMENTS—IT’S ALL TAKEN AWAY. SNAPCHAT HAS A LOT LESS SOCIAL PRESSURE ATTACHED TO IT COMPARED TO EVERY OTHER POPULAR SOCIAL MEDIA NETWORK OUT THERE.”

What Is It? "Snapchat is a mobile app that allows users to send and receive "self-destructing" photos and videos. Photos and videos taken with the app are called Snaps. The sender determines how many seconds (1-10) the recipient can view the Snap before the file disappears from the recipient's device."

Quick Thought: “It’s all about sharing the moment and then forgetting it. Teens can take pictures and videos which are then erased from their phones ten seconds later. Because of this feature, Snapchat has become the preferred method to sext. Nothing is ever truly deleted online; teens can take screenshots of the nude photos and then publish them across the internet.”

Pandora



THIS IS LITERALLY THE BACKGROUND MUSIC. I DON'T OFTEN SEE PANDORA HAILED AS A MASTER OF ATTENTION QUITE LIKE OTHER APPS THAT TECH WRITERS PAY ATTENTION TO. MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE PANDORA IS THE BACKGROUND MUSIC—LITERALLY—TO OTHER ACTIVITIES AND APPS SOAKING UP MOST OF OUR ATTENTION.

What Is It: "Pandora Internet Radio (also known as Pandora Radio or simply Pandora) is a music streaming and automated music recommendation service." Spotify is another up and coming streaming radio application.

Yik-Yak:



"Yik-Yak is a rather new contender, however, a ton of friends in college have the application. It has gotten to be so addicting because it focuses solely on the content of your posts—there are no followers, no profiles, nothing."

What is it?: Yik-Yak is an anonymous social media app. It is available for iOS and Android and it allows people anonymously to create and view "Yaks" within a 10 mile radius.

Quick Thought: "The problem with this particular app is that it is an "anonymous" messaging app that allows its users to send text and photos to others without using their name. Another feature of this app is that it is location enabled. You can choose to view and contribute to the feed of other users in a 5, 10 or 15 mile radius. This feature can potentially leave the door open for predators to make contact with minors in their local area."

Tumblr:



“Tumblr is a place to follow/be followed by a bunch of random strangers, yet not have your identity be attached to it.”

What is it: “Tumblr is a free social networking website that allows registered users to post multimedia content to their own customizable blogs.”

Quick Thought: “Is a micro blogging site for teens with limited attention spans. Tumblr is built on creating your blog around photos, videos and audio. These blogs allows teens to express themselves through media but watch out for the pro bullying, anorexia and bullima pages.”

Google Plus:



“Google+ is really awesome for photos and Hangouts, but that’s about it. My only friends on Google+ are those who are more interested in technology.”

What Is It: Google+ (pronounced Google plus) is a Google social networking project. The Google+ design team sought to replicate the way people interact offline more closely than is the case in other social networking services, such as Facebook and Twitter. The project’s slogan is “Real-life sharing rethought for the web.”

Quick Thought: “For the most part, teens’ experience on Google+ will be just like adults, but there are some special safeguards for users under 18. Google didn’t put any major breaks on teens — it’s giving them plenty of freedom to express themselves to their friends or even to the world, but it did make some of the default settings for teens more restrictive than for adults. If teens (or adults) decide to change them, they can, but how a service sets its defaults is very important. It’s a type of recommendation — the company’s way of saying “this is how we think most people should use our service,” and — besides — most people never get around to changing defaults.”

KIK:



“Kik is an instant messaging app that is similar to texting but users have multiple options of talking with individuals, with groups and within a social networking environment. Users can also use Kik to send photos and files and send greeting cards. It combines texting with a social network. Users are supposed to be age 13 or older. This is because it is not compliant with COPPA (Children's Online Privacy Protection Act) requirements of specific features for a website designed for children, meaning those 12 and under. Kik itself states, "Children under the age of 13 are prohibited from having a Kik account by the Kik Terms of Service." The site has no age verification.

What is it: “Kik Messenger is an instant messaging application for mobile devices. The app is available on most iOS, Android, and Windows Phone operating systems free of charge. Kik Messenger is modeled after BlackBerry's Messenger. Kik uses a smartphone's data plan or Wi-Fi to transmit and receive messages.”

Note: This is a representative of messaging apps often used by tweens who do not have smart phones but only tablets or ipod like devices to chat with others on different devices.

Quick Thought: “It’s pretty safe to say teens love texting. What they like even more is sending videos and memes to each other and that’s where Kik comes in. Kik is a smartphone app that allows teens to send each other videos and images without limit. With about 50 million users,”

Pinterest:



“Pinterest is only used by about 20% of teens. It is really used for a place to go for ideas for crafts, projects and redecorating their rooms”

What is it: “Pinterest is a free website that requires registration to use. Users can upload, save, sort, and manage images—known as pins—and other media content (e.g., videos and images) through collections known as pinboards.”

Quick Thought: “Is all about organizing users around shared interests. Users can create “boards” where they “pin” their favorite recipes, clothes or even memes. Pinterest is becoming more popular because of the ease to pin new content and it’s highly visually. Unfortunately porn has started to show up links in innocent looking pins so make sure you educate kids to stay away from links that don’t match the description of the pin.”

LinkedIn:



“Teens have to get it, so they got it. Many wait until college to get this (as they probably should, it isn’t for this demographic anyways)”

What Is It: LinkedIn is a social networking site designed specifically for the business community. The goal of the site is to allow registered members to establish and document networks of people they know and trust professionally.

Vine:



“However, an interesting trend I am noticing is regarding the Vine application itself. I know few people who actually have the Vine application on their phone; instead they find funny or interesting Vines from sharing on Twitter, Facebook, Tumblr or YouTube.”

What Is It: Vine enables users to record short video clips up to around six seconds long while recording through its in-app camera. The camera records only while the screen is being touched, enabling users to edit on the fly or create stop motion effects.

Quick Thought: “Vine allows users to post 6 second videos and then share them on Twitter and Facebook. The app is rated 17+ in iTunes Store so expect plenty of drugs and sexual content. Their privacy settings are not the greatest which means users have to constantly make sure their videos are only seen by their friends.”

Skype:



“With Skype, you can share a story, celebrate a birthday, learn a language, hold a meeting, work with colleagues – just about anything you need to do together every day. You can use Skype on whatever works best for you - on your phone or computer or a TV with Skype on it. It is free to start using Skype - to speak, see and instant message other people on Skype for example. You can even try out group video, with the latest version of Skype.” -skype.com

What Is It: Similar to FaceTime it enables video calling without a phone, while connected to the internet. You can also text and make phone calls using the app.

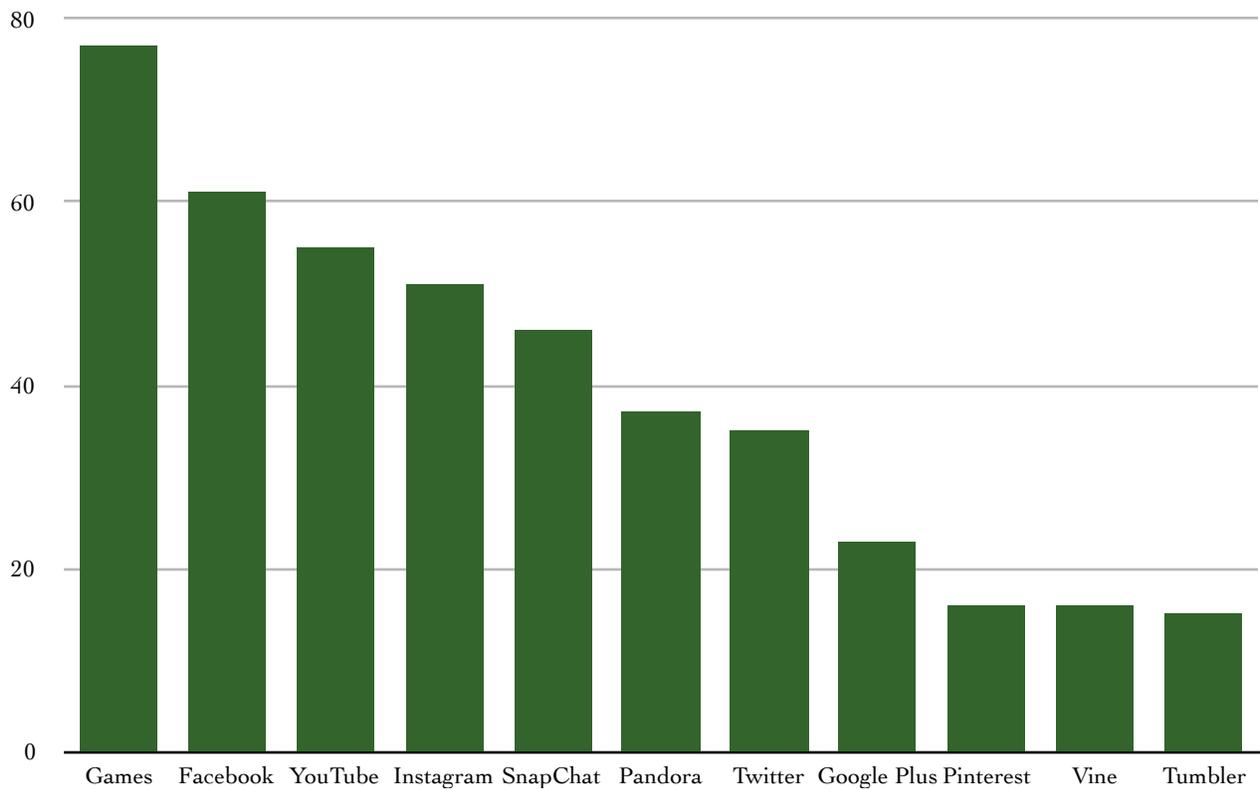
Quick Thought: “Then there’s the major problem that it’s very easy for anyone (and I mean ANYONE!) to find out your computer’s IP address from your Skype user name when you’re logged in. Once they have your IP address, they can see where you are currently located and track your movements. For those who might be wanting to hide where they are, this is obviously a no-no.”



Games:

These are constantly changing, but app based games have bypassed the use of gaming systems. Be aware of students downloading and playing games. Especially pay attention to games where you can connect to an “APP STORE” to purchase more “lives” to keep the game going.

Usage stats at a glance:



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